



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY (M&RA)  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY (M&RA)  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE (MRA&I)

SUBJECT: Transportation of Specimens and Drug Urinalysis Testing  
and Retesting Levels

- REFERENCES:
- a. DoD Directive 1010.1 "DoD Drug Abuse Testing Program", 28 December 1984 (effective 1 June 1985)
  - b. ASD(HA) Memorandum, subject: Radioimmunoassay Cutoff Levels for Urinalysis Conducted in Drug Testing Laboratories, 23 February 1982 (canceled 1 June 1985)
  - c. ASD(HA) Memorandum, subject: Drug Urinalysis Screening Sensitivity Levels, 8 August 1983 (canceled 1 June 1985)

In accordance with reference (a), this memorandum provides requirements for the transportation of specimens and establishes testing and retesting levels for drug urinalysis.

Reference (a) requires that all specimens be handled using appropriate chain of custody procedures. To ensure that specimens are shipped expeditiously and that containers are handled properly, specimens must be delivered from the point of collection to the drug testing laboratory using one of the following methods:

1. United States Postal Service
2. Military Airlift Command transportation system
3. Commercial air freight or air express
4. Handcarried.

If the sample was taken on the basis of probable cause, it should be transmitted under rules of the Service concerned pertaining to forensic evidence. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to invalidate transmittal by other means if there is an otherwise valid chain of custody.

Reference (a) also requires that testing levels for drug urinalysis be established. These levels establish the concentration of a drug or its metabolite(s) at or above which test results are evaluated as positive. The Services will ensure that each military or civilian contract drug testing laboratory has the capability to test accurately at the levels established by this memorandum.

The initial test levels for a drug and/or its metabolite(s) are as follows:

	<u>Initial Test Level</u> (ng/ml)
Amphetamines	1000
Barbiturates	200
Cannabinoids	100
Cocaine	300
Opiates	300
Phencyclidine	25

The confirmatory test levels for a drug and/or its primary metabolite are as follows:

	<u>Confirmatory Test Level</u> (ng/ml)
Amphetamines	500
Barbiturates	200
11-nor-delta 9-tetrahydro-cannabinol-9-carboxylic acid	20
Benzoyllecgonine (Cocaine)	300
Opiates	300
Phencyclidine	25

The testing levels are required during the original testing of urine specimens. Upon retest using Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry, the testing level is established by the lowest concentration that can be measured by the drug testing laboratory to verify the presence of the drug or metabolite(s).

This memorandum is effective 1 June 1985.

  
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